

Message Text

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61-60

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2518

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4080

FOR ARA/CAR, ARA/MGT, SY, M;

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, ASEC, PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY THREAT TO MISSION

AND ITS STAFF FLOWING FROM AGEE'S ALLEGATIONS

REF: (A) KINGSTON 4060, (B) KINGSTON 4047, (C) KINGSTON 4019,
(D) KINGSTON 4013, (E) KINGSTON 3988, (F) KINGSTON 3986,
(G) KINGSTON 3920, (H) KINGSTON 3890

1. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DEFINE WITH CERTAINTY THE LEVEL
AND CHARACTER OF SECURITY THREAT TO OUR MISSION AND ITS STAFF
WHICH EXISTS OF MIGHT FLOW FROM PHILIP AGEE'S VISIT AND
ALLEGATIONS. NONETHELESS, WE CAN DRAW SOME TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS,
HAVE TAKEN SOME PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, AND CAN NOW RECOMMEND
ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR FOLLOWUP BY THE DEPARTMENT.

2. REFTELS A AND C DESCRIBED THE LEVEL AND CHARACTER OF
HARRASSMENT AND THREATS THUS FAR DIRECTED AT OUR STAFF.
WE ASSUME SUCH WILL CONTINUE, AND WILL WAX AND WANE
DEPENDENT ON THE LEVEL OF CONTINUING PUBLICITY GIVEN
TO AGEE'S ALLEGATIONS. WE HAVE YET TO RECEIVE ANY
REPORTS OF HARRASSMENT OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. WE
NONETHELSS MUST ALSO ASSUME THAT ALL PERSONS NAMED
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WHO REMAIN IN JAMAICA, PLUS ALL OTHER US EMPLOYEES AND

DEPENDENTS, ARE FACED WITH AN INCREASED THREAT TO THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY. IF ANYONE SHOULD CHOOSE TO FOLLOW UP ON AGEE'S ALLEGATIONS BY ATTEMPTING TO ATTACK MISSION STAFF OR OTHER AMERICANS WE PRESENTLY ASSUME SUCH PERSONS WOULD BE FROM THE EXTREMIST FRINGE OF JAMAICAN POLITICS AND THAT THEY WOULD TAKE SUCH ACTION WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT. NONETHELESS, AT THIS TIME, THREAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE REACHED THAT POINT WHERE ANY OF OUR STAFF NOW FEEL IT NECESSARY TO LEAVE. (THE SINGLE EXCEPTION IS FSL ADRIENNE MACKENZIE WHOSE CASE IS BEING HANDLED IN SEPARATE MESSAGES.) THIS JUDGMENT RELATES ONLY TO PERSONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

3. CONCERNING THE SECURITY OF OUR VARIOUS OFFICES, ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES WITHIN OUR CAPABILITY HAVE BEEN TAKEN. WE ASSUME, AT THIS TIME, THE JAMAICAN SECURITY FORCES WILL NOT CONDONE ANY DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER PUBLIC ATTACKS ON OUR OFFICES OF THE CHARACTER WHICH OCCURRED AT OUR VISA ANNEX THIS PAST JANUARY. WHAT-EVER THREAT EXISTS IS SAME AS THAT FACING INDIVIDUAL STAFF, I.E. INDIVIDUAL VIOLENT ATTACKS BY EXTREMIST ELEMENTS. SUCH CAN RANGE FROM GRAFFITI ON THE WALLS OF OUR BUILDINGS TO ARSON OR HIT AND RUN ATTACKS BY GUNMEN.

4. SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN ARE DESCRIBED IN REFTELS D & F. MOR SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE CHANGING TELEPHONE NUMBERS, AUTOMOBILE LICENSE PLATES, AND IF SUCH SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY, QUARTERS IN THOSE CASES WHERE STAFF DESIRE SUCH ACTION.

5. THERE ARE MEASURES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT CAN TAKE TO ASSIST US IN ENHANCING OUR SECURITY. THESE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN PLEADING WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR MINOR EXPANSION OF ITS MOTOR POOL (REFTEL G). IT IS OBVIOUS THAT, IN ADDITION TO INCREASED MISSION EFFICIENCY, AN EXPANDED MOTOR POOL WILL PROVIDE US A CONFIDENTIAL

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MUCH NEEDED MEANS OF ASSURING OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION ON THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR STAFF -- PARTICULARLY THOSE NAMED BY AGEE WHOSE AUTOMOBILES WERE DESCRIBED BY HIM. PROMPT SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE MOTOR POOL IS REQUESTED.

B. RELATED TO THE FOREGOING, EXPEDITED PREPARATION AND SHIPMENT OF A NEW COM VEHICLE IS REQUESTED. THIS

VEHICLE, A FORD GRENADA, WAS ORDERED IN EARLY 1976 AND THE CURRENT ANTICIPATED DELIVERY DATE IS DECEMBER OR JANUARY.

C. PROMPT DEPARTMENTAL ACTION ON OUR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT IS IMPORTANT (REFTEL B).

D. MAXIMUM COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT IS NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF MOST ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION TO THE NEW MUTUAL LIFE CENTER BUILDING BY NO LATER THAN EARLY 1977. THE MEANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS WERE RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL H. WE ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF PREPARING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE NUMBERS OF TDY MARINE GUARDS THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY.

E. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE DEPT. SHOULD CONSIDER ADVISING JAMAICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OF US GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF ITS MISSION AND STAFF IN JAMAICA AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE AGEE ALLEGATIONS. THIS WOULD BE A FOLLOW-ON TO OUR OWN ACTIONS HERE (REFTEL E), CHARACTER OF DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH SHOULD DEPEND ON DEGREE TO WHICH IT WISHES AT THIS TIME TO RACHET UPWARDS VISIBILITY OF OUR CONCERN AND DISPLEASURE.
GERARD

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